

REMARKS

Applicants select Figures 7a-7c (Group IV) for further prosecution at the present time. The election requirement is respectfully traversed, inasmuch as the Examiner has limited the election requirement only to several varieties of fiber, whereas the present application is directed in part to fiber and fiber laser systems employing such fibers. In the event of a subsequent reformulation of the requirement, Applicants expressly reserve the right to elect system claims for present prosecution to the exclusion of the presently elected fiber species.

Among the present claims, claims 8, 9, 27, 28 and 65-76 are directly readable upon the elected species of Figures 7a-7c. A large number of claims are generic to the elected species, namely claims 1, 3-7, 10, 14-20, ¹⁶⁻¹⁹~~20-26~~, ²¹⁻²⁴~~27-29~~, 33-58, 60-64, 77, 78 and 80-84. Accordingly, the elected claims directed specifically to the Figure 7 species must be examined together with these generic claims.

In view of the above, favorable action on the merits of the elected species and generic claims is respectfully solicited at this time.

Inasmuch as the present Office Action set a three month period for response, it is respectfully submitted that the present response is timely filed on June 26, 2003, without any extension of time being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 26, 2003